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The Solar Wind Interaction with Comets: A Post Encounter View

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D. A. Mendis  
Dept. of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences,  
University of California, San Diego La Jolla, CA 92093

The recent spacecraft encounters with Comets Giacobini-Zinner and Halley have led to an enormous increase in our knowledge of comets, including their dust, neutral gas, plasma, and magnetic field environments. The latter has in turn led to a better understanding of the nature of the solar wind interaction with the well-developed atmosphere of a comet. Here I will review our post-encounter understanding of this interaction, underscoring the differences with our pre-encounter understanding. The outstanding problems in this area will be emphasized.